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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/556,235

09/25/2006

Shinichi Fujisawa

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9088

26389

7590

09/19/2008

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EXAMINER

BLOUIN, MARK S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2627

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/19/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/556,235	Applicant(s) FUJISAWA, SHINICHI	
	Examiner MARK BLOUIN	Art Unit 2627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/9/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

Detailed Action

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwata et al (US 5,524,104).

3. Regarding Claims 1,2, and 7, Iwata et al shows (Figs. 1-8) a disc device, comprising a single disc device or a pair of the disc devices (9 and 15) combined vertically or horizontally, being to be arranged in a half-height drive bay configured in a front face of an information device, wherein a case of the disc device has a threaded hole (12) at a side of the case for mounting onto a main body (2a) of the information device, wherein a bottom panel of a case of a first disc device and a top panel or a bottom panel of a case of a second disc device are integrated by a connecting member (18) for engaging the both panels with each other to be arranged in the half-height drive bay.

4. Regarding Claims 3 and 8, Iwata et al shows (Figs. 1-8) the disc device, wherein the cases of a pair of disc devices (9 and 15) configured for combining are to be integrated by opposing the cases for having an outline being fitted in an opening of the drive bay (see figure 7).

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5. Regarding Claims 4 and 9, Iwata et al shows (Figs. 1-8) the disc device, wherein bottom panels of the cases of the disc devices (9 and 15) are to be opposed to each other.

6. Regarding Claims 5 and 10, Iwata et al shows (Figs. 1-8) the disc device, wherein the outline of the case of single disc device has a thickness of 19 mm to 20.54 mm, and a width of 145.5 mm to 146.5 mm (Col 2, lines 26-49).

7. Regarding Claims 6 and 11, Iwata et al shows (Figs. 1-8) the disc device, wherein push.buttons (36,37,40) for loading/unloading a disc tray are provided at both side ends of a bezel.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Blouin whose telephone number is 571-272-7583. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 6:00 to 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Joe Feild, can be reached on 571-272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Mark Blouin/

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Primary Examiner of Art Unit 2627

Mark Blouin

Patent Examiner

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September 16, 2008